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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Aratani et al.

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GROUP NO: 1742

DATE FILED: October 29, 1999

EXAMINER: J. Combs

INVENTION: **THIN FILM FORMATION USE SPUTTERING TARGET MATERIAL,
THIN FILM FORMED USING SAME, AND OPTICAL RECORDING
MEDIUM**

Hon. Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement imposed in the Office Action mailed on April 10, 2000, Applicants hereby elect Group I (Claims 1, 2 and 7) without traverse. The Patent Office is authorized to cancel, without prejudice, Claims 3-6, 8 and 9. An early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

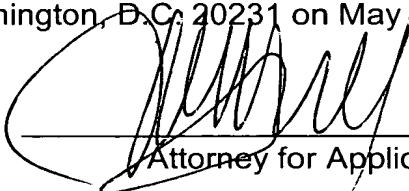


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Hon. Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on May 9, 2000.



Attorney for Applicants